

Message Text

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ORIGIN MCT-01

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 NEA-10 ISO-00 L-03 PA-01 PRS-01 USIE-00

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EUR - MR. SCARLIS

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY ATHENS NIACT IMMEDIATE

INFO AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE IMMEDIATE

AMCONSUL MONTREAL PRIORITY

AMCONSUL NICE PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY PARIS PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 221434

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS

SUBJECT: TERRORISTS STRANDED IN GREECE

1. ACCORDING TO PRESS REPORTS, HAMDANE BENHELEL AND MOHAMED RUSTIN, TWO OF THE THREE HIJACKERS INVOLVED IN ABORTIVE KLM SKYJACKING SEPT. 4-5, ARE PRESENTLY STRANDED IN ATHENS BECAUSE ALL AIR CARRIERS REFUSE TO CARRY THEM WITHOUT POLICE ESCORT WHICH GOC UNABLE TO PROVIDE. TERRORISTS PURPORTEDLY WISH TO GO TO BAGHDAD.

2. AS YOU KNOW, GOC HAS RATIFIED 1970 HAGUE CONVENTION FOR THE SUPPRESSION OF UNLAWFUL SEIZURE OF AIRCRAFT. ARTICLE 6 OF THAT CONVENTION STATED INTER ALIA THAT QUOTE UPON BEING SATISFIED THAT THE CIRCUMSTANCES SO WARRANT, ANY CONTRACTING STATE IN THE TERRITORY OF WHICH THE OFFENDER OR ALLEGED

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OFFENDER IS PRESENT, SHALL TAKE HIM INTO CUSTODY OR TAKE

OTHER MEASURES TO ENSURE HIS PRESENCE. THE CUSTODY AND OTHER MEASURES SHALL BE AS PROVIDED IN THE LAW OF THAT STATE BUT MAY ONLY BE CONTINUED FOR SUCH TIME AS IS NECESSARY TO ENABLE ANY CRIMINAL OR EXTRADITION PROCEEDINGS TO BE INSTITUTED. UNQUOTE. ARTICLE 7 STATES INTER ALIA THAT THE QUOTE CONTRACTING STATE IN THE TERRITORY OF WHICH THE ALLEGED OFFENDER IS FOUND SHALL, IF IT DOES NOT EXTRADITE HIM, BE OBLIGED, WITHOUT EXCEPTION WHATSOEVER AND WHETHER OR NOT

THE OFFENSE WAS COMMITTED IN ITS TERRITORY, TO SUBMIT THE CASE TO ITS COMPETENT AUTHORITIES FOR THE PURPOSE OF PROSECUTION. UNQUOTE.

3. EMBASSY IS URGENTLY INSTRUCTED TO ASK GOG AT APPROPRIATE LEVEL WHETHER IT INTENDS TO HONOR ITS HAGUE CONVENTION RESPONSIBILITY. IT SHOULD BE MADE CLEAR THAT GOG PROSECUTION OR EXTRADITION, AS PRESCRIBED BY THE CONVENTION, WOULD STRIKE ANOTHER BLOW AT INTERNATIONAL TERRORISM, WHICH HAS PLAGUED THE GREEKS PERHAPS MORE THAN MOST NATIONS OF THE WORLD. ROBINSON

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